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REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Second part of its thirty-eighth session*

(21 April-7 May 1992)

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* The report of the Trade and Development Board on the first part of its thirty-eighth session was issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/46/15). The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Board on the second part of its thirty-eighth session. It will be issued subsequently as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 15 (A/47/15), vol. I.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report to the General Assembly has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines adopted by the Trade and Development Board in the annex to its decision 302 (XXIX) of 21 September 1984.

2. The second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Board was held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from 21 April to 7 May 1992 (804th and 805th meetings). The session was opened on 21 April 1992 by the President of the Board, Mr. Thomas Ogada (Kenya).

A. Replacement of a Vice-President

3. At its 804th (opening) meeting, on 21 April 1992, the Board elected Mr. John Swift (Ireland) to replace Mr. Giulio di Lorenzo Badia (Italy).

4. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Board at the second part of the thirty-eighth session was as follows:

President: Mr. Thomas Ogada (Kenya)

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Morris B. Abram (United States of America)
Mr. Petr Bambas (Czechoslovakia)
Mr. Lloyd M. H. Barnett (Jamaica)
Mr. Johan Frederik Boddens-Hosang (Netherlands)
Ms. Taous Feroukhi (Algeria)
Mr. Jamtono Rahardjo (Indonesia)
Mr. Fawaz Sharaf (Jordan)
Mr. John Swift (Ireland)
Mr. T. V. Teodorovich (Russian Federation)
Mr. Arnold Willen (Sweden)

Rapporteur: Mr. Iñigo Salvador-Crespo (Ecuador)

B. Membership and attendance 1/

5. The following States members of UNCTAD, members of the Board, were represented at the session: Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Belarus; Belgium; Bhutan; Bolivia; Brazil; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Cameroon; Canada; Chile; China; Colombia; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Czechoslovakia; Democratic People's Republic of Korea; Denmark; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Ethiopia; Finland; France; Germany; Ghana; Greece; Haiti; Hungary; India; Indonesia; Iran (Islamic Republic of); Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kenya; Kuwait; Lebanon; Liberia; Libyan Arab Jamahiriya; Liechtenstein; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malaysia; Malta; Mexico; Mongolia; Morocco; Myanmar; Nepal; Netherlands; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Nigeria; Norway; Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Paraguay; Peru; Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Republic of Korea; Romania; Russian Federation; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Somalia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Sweden; Switzerland; Syrian Arab Republic; Thailand; Togo; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Ukraine;

United Arab Emirates; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United Republic of Tanzania; United States of America; Uruguay; Venezuela; Viet Nam; Yemen; Yugoslavia; Zambia; Zimbabwe.

6. The following other States members of UNCTAD, not members of the Board, were represented at the session: Brunei Darussalam; Equatorial Guinea; Lithuania.

7. Palestine participated pursuant to General Assembly resolution 3237 (XXIX).

8. The Department of Economic and Social Development and the United Nations Environment Programme were represented at the session. The International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was also represented at the session.

9. The following specialized and related agencies were represented at the session: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; World Health Organization; International Monetary Fund; United Nations Industrial Development Organization; World Bank; World Intellectual Property Organization. The General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade was also represented at the session.

10. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented at the session: European Economic Community; Latin American Economic System; League of Arab States; Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development; Organization of African Unity.

11. The following non-governmental organizations were represented at the session: General Category: International Chamber of Commerce; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; World Federation of Trade Unions; World Federation of United Nations Associations.

C. Tribute to the memory of His Excellency Mr. Adnan Tarcici (Yemen)

12. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board observed a moment of silence in memory of His Excellency Mr. Adnan Tarcici, Ambassador of Yemen to the United Nations in Geneva.

D. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session

(Agenda item 1 (a))

13. At the 804th meeting, the President drew attention to paragraph 87 of the Cartagena Commitment, in which the Conference called upon the Board, at its first session following UNCTAD VIII, to take the necessary follow-up measures to ensure the speedy implementation of the agreed institutional reforms. The Board was informed that, in the light of that directive, the Consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD, held on 8 April 1992, had decided that, with the exception of unavoidable procedural issues, the second part of the

thirty-eighth session of the Board should be devoted exclusively to institutional issues; and had accordingly approved a revised provisional agenda for the session (TD/B/1314).

14. Having taken note of the above decisions, the Board adopted the revised provisional agenda in TD/B/1314, with the addition of two procedural sub-items announced by the President. (The agenda as adopted was subsequently circulated in TD/B/1321 and is reproduced in annex I below.)

15. The Board also approved the organization of work for the session in TD/B/1314/Add.1, with the amendments recommended by the Bureau, on the understanding that the tentative timetable could be further adjusted in the light of developments.

E. Establishment of the Working Group of the Whole

16. At its 804th meeting, the Board established an open-ended Working Group of the Whole, to meet informally, for the purpose of establishing the terms of reference of the Standing Committees and ad hoc working groups called for by the Conference. The Board elected Mr. Gunnar Lund (Sweden) as Chairman of the Working Group.

17. The Working Group established two drafting groups as follows:

- Drafting Group A, chaired by Mr. J. Navarrete (Mexico)
- Drafting Group B, chaired by Mr. M. Bailey (Canada).

F. Adoption of the report on credentials

(Agenda item 1 (b))

18. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board adopted the report of its Bureau on the credentials of representatives attending the session (TD/B/1322).

19. Statements were made on the question of the participation of Yugoslavia by the representatives of the United States of America, Austria, Hungary, Portugal (on behalf of the European Community and its member States) and Yugoslavia.

G. Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board

(Agenda item 1 (c))

20. At the same meeting, the Secretary-General of UNCTAD stated that, after difficult and protracted consultations, a large measure of agreement had been reached on the content of the provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth session of the Board. He had indicated the extent of agreement reached in an unofficial paper entitled "Elements suggested by the

Secretary-General of UNCTAD for a draft provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth session of the Trade and Development Board", which had been made available to all delegations in UNCTAD/PSM/CAS/401/Rev.2. He pointed out, however, that many delegations had taken the position that the agenda should be seen as a package and that final approval depended on agreement on all its components.

21. With this general caveat in mind, he drew attention to four related features. One was that during the consultations he had suggested that, in accordance with Trade and Development Board resolution 358 (XXXV), an item be included concerning the recent evolution of debt rescheduling. In the absence of agreement for the inclusion of such an item on the provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth session, the understanding had been reached that the Board would have on the agenda for the first part of its fortieth session an item which would enable it to address in a comprehensive fashion debt issues in a development context, including the recent evolution of debt rescheduling as required in resolution 358 (XXXV).

22. Secondly, it had been recognized that the maintenance of item 10 (a) relating to the report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT was subject to that Group's meeting in 1992 and in time for the Board to consider its report.

23. Thirdly, although there was agreement that consideration had to be given to the question of extending the duration of the first part of the thirty-ninth session in order to accommodate the extended agenda for that session, no agreement could be reached on the precise duration of that session. It was therefore proposed that this matter be pursued through the informal consultations after the conclusion of the current session of the Board.

24. Finally, he drew attention to the fact that item 9 relating to the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in the light of the Cartagena decision remained within brackets. He recalled that his original suggestion had been that the item be entitled "Assistance to the Palestinian people". In the light of the consultations that had followed, he had revised his suggestion so that, in the first place, the item would be reformulated to read "Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in the light of the Cartagena decision", and that, in the second place, it would be understood that, while delegations would be at liberty to make such statements as they saw fit, the action to be taken by the Board would be limited to taking note of the report. No agreement could be reached on that revised suggestion. That had been the situation two days previously. He understood that since then positive developments had occurred as a result of further contacts among interested delegations. The representative of Canada, whose good offices had been brought to bear on those contacts, had kept him informed, and he felt that it would be helpful if the representative of Canada was now invited to report to the Board on the outcome of those contacts.

25. The representative of Canada said that, as a result of the informal consultations which had taken place in the past few days on item 9 of the provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth session, he believed that there was now a consensus to proceed on the basis of the proposal which

the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had just put to the Board. In the light of that, he proposed that the square brackets around item 9 be deleted, as well as the square brackets around the text as a whole.

Action by the Trade and Development Board

26. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board, having heard the statements by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and the representative of Canada, approved the draft provisional agenda for the first part of its thirty-ninth session, as reflected in UNCTAD/PSM/CAS/401/Rev.2. (The provisional agenda was subsequently circulated in TD/B/INF.187 and is reproduced in annex II below.)

H. Designation of the President of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board

(Agenda item 1 (d))

27. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board noted that Group D had decided to relinquish its turn in the cycle for the rotation of the office of President of the Board. Accordingly, the President for the thirty-ninth session of the Board was to be designated from among the countries members of Group B.

28. In the light of the above, the Board designated H.E. Mr. Gündüz Aktan (Turkey) to serve as President of the Board at its thirty-ninth session.

I. New States members of UNCTAD

(Agenda item 3 (a))

29. At the 804th meeting, on 21 April 1992, the President, on behalf of the Board, congratulated the nine States which the General Assembly had admitted to membership in the United Nations on 2 March 1992. Of these, San Marino was already a member of UNCTAD. Under the provisions of Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), the remaining eight (Armenia; Azerbaijan; Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Republic of Moldova; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; and Uzbekistan) had automatically become members of UNCTAD, thus bringing the membership of UNCTAD to 179.

J. Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board

(Agenda item 3 (b))

30. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board designated the following intergovernmental body for purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure: International Customs Tariffs Bureau (ICTB), information on which was contained in document TD/B/R.62.

K. Review of the calendar of meetings

(Agenda item 3 (c))

31. At the resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Chief of the Conference Affairs Service stated that, after informal consultations among the members of the Calendar Group, the following understanding had been reached regarding the nineteenth session of the Special Committee on Preferences:

(a) The Committee would meet in formal session for five days as from 18 May, and thus the nineteenth session of the Committee would be scheduled from 18 to 22 May 1992;

(b) On the following Monday and Tuesday, i.e. 25 and 26 May, facilities would be made available, within the framework of the Special Committee on Preferences, as necessary, to complete any bilateral or plurilateral consultations that had been requested;

(c) The above two points would be adequately reflected in a communication to be sent as soon as possible to all participants.

32. In the period ahead, it would be understood that the Calendar Group could be convened as and when necessary to review any outstanding calendar matters, and to make recommendations as appropriate to the regular consultations of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and to the Trade and Development Board meeting in executive session.

33. At the same meeting, the Board took note of the agreement reached with regard to the Special Committee on Preferences.

L. Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board

(Agenda item 3 (d))

34. At the resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Secretary of the Trade and Development Board stated that, with regard to the administrative and financial implications of the Cartagena Commitment, and the decision made at the current session of the Board in establishing the new standing committees and ad hoc working groups, in the current estimation of the secretariat the resources provided in the programme budget for the Board's subsidiary bodies which had been suspended, together with the provisions for working groups in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, would be adequate to cover the conference servicing requirements of the new bodies established by the Conference at its eighth session.

M. Other business

(Agenda item 4)

1. Membership of the Trade and Development Board

35. At the resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the President informed the Board that the Secretary-General of UNCTAD had received a communication, dated 27 April 1992, from the Permanent Mission of Albania, indicating that Albania wished to become a member of the Trade and Development Board.

36. At the same meeting, the Board elected Albania to membership of the Trade and Development Board, thus bringing the membership of that body to 132.

2. International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT

37. Statements concerning the vacancy in the Directorship of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania; India; and Peru (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Group).

N. Adoption of the report of the Board

(Agenda item 5)

38. At its resumed 805th (closing) meeting, on 7 May 1992, the Board adopted the draft report on the second part of its thirty-eighth session (TD/B/L.930) and authorized the Rapporteur, Mr. Iñigo Salvador-Crespo (Ecuador), to complete the final report as appropriate.

II. ACTION BY THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD AT THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-EIGHTH SESSION

Decision 398 (XXXVIII). Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its eighth session

The Trade and Development Board,

Acting in accordance with the provisions of A New Partnership for Development: The Cartagena Commitment adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session,

Decides to adopt the texts annexed to this decision.

805th (resumed) meeting
7 May 1992

Annex

A. The Trade and Development Board in executive session

Pursuant to paragraph 67 of the Cartagena Commitment, the Trade and Development Board adopts the following guidelines for its meetings in executive session (hereafter referred to as "executive sessions of the Board").

1. The executive sessions of the Board will facilitate the strengthening of the policy function of the Board in adapting the organization's work to changing world-wide economic circumstances, reviewing work programmes and priorities, promoting greater efficiency and reacting to reports from its subsidiary bodies in order to give impetus to ongoing work.

2. The executive sessions will be convened at the level of Permanent Representatives at regular intervals, and at any time the President of the Board, in consultation with the Secretary-General of UNCTAD and with the member States, deems it necessary, in half-day or one-day sessions. One of these sessions shall take place immediately before each part of the regular sessions of the Board. The agenda for each executive session of the Board will be agreed upon sufficiently in advance to ensure adequate preparation. Each executive session of the Board should be preceded by an appropriate consultative process.

3. The executive sessions of the Board may provide guidance to the subsidiary bodies of the Board and take action on the outcomes of the meetings of these bodies; take action on procedural and organizational matters; and provide timely preparation of the issues to be considered by the regular sessions of the Board.

B. Terms of reference of the Standing Committees

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standing Committee on Commodities

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a Standing Committee on Commodities is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To promote sound, compatible and consistent policies, which, inter alia, take into account market trends, at the national and international levels in the commodity field.

2. To undertake periodic and global reviews, studies and analyses of the situation of, and prospects for, commodities, and to compile statistical reports on commodity production, prices and trade.

3. To undertake analyses and identify approaches on commodity policies, bearing in mind both, as appropriate, Conference resolution 93 (IV) and the particular characteristics and situation of individual commodities, including the particular problems of the least developed countries. This work should help to achieve the following:

(a) Improving the functioning of commodity markets by reducing the distortions affecting supply and demand;

(b) Optimizing the contribution of the commodities sector to development by, inter alia, working towards greater cost-effectiveness and productivity, thereby enhancing competitiveness;

(c) Reviewing and comparing national policies with the aim of enhancing the competitiveness of the commodity sector, taking into account market trends;

(d) Achieving a gradual reduction in excessive dependence on the export of primary commodities through horizontal and vertical diversification of production and exports as well as crop substitution, within a macroeconomic framework that takes into consideration a country's economic structure, resource endowments and market opportunities;

(e) Progressive removal of trade barriers, i.e. trade liberalization, for commodity products;

(f) Improving market transparency;

(g) Exploring the links between commodity policies, sound management of natural resources and achievement of sustainable development;

(h) Exploring greater use and efficiency of various mechanisms for risk management, having in mind the objective of minimizing the risks arising from commodity market fluctuations, including market-linked price-hedging mechanisms such as commodity futures and options and related longer-term

mechanisms such as commodity swaps, bonds and loans, obstacles to their potential use and modalities for overcoming them;

(i) Analysing problems stemming from commodity-related shortfalls of developing countries and reviewing developments in the field of compensatory financing of export earnings shortfalls.

4. To facilitate and coordinate activities of bodies involved in the commodity field.

5. To follow and facilitate, as appropriate, intergovernmental consultations and action among interested countries on the problems of particular commodities or groups of commodities; to analyse the need for, and encourage when considered necessary, the achievement of viable and efficient international agreements or arrangements that take into account market trends, as well as study groups, both autonomous and within UNCTAD.

6. To assist the Board in assessing the question of a world conference on commodities as provided for in the decision "World Commodity Conference" adopted at the eighth session of the Conference.

7. To assist it in its work, the Committee may have, as subsidiary organs, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Tungsten and the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Iron Ore.

8. To deal with other items within the field of commodities directed to it by the Board.

9. The work of the Committee should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Committee should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

10. In its work, the Committee should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

11. The Committee should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

12. The work of the Committee should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

13. The work of the Committee should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

14. The Committee may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

15. The Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Trade and Development Board on its work. In accordance with paragraph 68 of the Cartagena Commitment the Board will conduct a review and evaluation of the work programme of the Committee midway between Conferences.

16. The frequency of sessions of the Committee is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended; to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; and to the consensus achieved at UNCTAD VIII, whereby: "States members of UNCTAD recognize that peace and prosperity are indivisible and that lasting peace and stability require effective international cooperation for the eradication of poverty",

Acting in the context of national and international efforts to combat poverty until it is eradicated,

A Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To contribute to national and international efforts to prevent, alleviate and reduce poverty, particularly where it is more acute, as well as to the formulation of related national and international policies, bearing in mind the diversity of country situations including the particular problems of the least developed countries and the most vulnerable population groups. The work of the Committee shall be essentially action oriented.

2. In order to achieve the above objectives, the Committee shall:

(a) Review existing information and analyses on the characteristics, causes, location, dimensions and dynamics of poverty, as well as on related indicators;

(b) Exchange and review national experiences in dealing with poverty; identify impediments to poverty alleviation with a view to promoting greater understanding of successful national policies; and identify policy options for the prevention and alleviation of poverty. In this context, the Committee, while taking into account the need for an integrated approach for efficient action towards poverty alleviation, shall focus, inter alia, on the following areas: human resource and community development; social infrastructure development; employment creation and increasing productivity of the poor; distribution of income and social benefits of development in rural and urban areas; social safety nets; and policies to promote the access of the poor to productive assets. In doing so, the Committee should bear in mind the impact of structural reform programmes on poverty alleviation and the need for increased participation of the poor and vulnerable groups in development;

(c) Exchange views on the impact of development assistance and cooperation programmes, including emergency assistance programmes, on the alleviation and reduction of poverty and develop approaches to promote effective programmes;

(d) Consider questions related to the financing and organization of social development programmes in developing countries, particularly in the areas of health, education, housing and sanitation;

(e) Examine the impact of trade expansion on poverty alleviation;

(f) Identify the linkages between the alleviation of poverty and the achievement of sustainable development;

(g) Examine the relationship between migrations and other demographic factors, and poverty alleviation.

3. In carrying out its functions, the Committee shall draw on the experience and expertise of other intergovernmental bodies, non-governmental organizations, experts from various fields and others for the purpose of discussion and clarification of issues on poverty alleviation.

4. The work of the Committee should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Committee should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

5. In its work, the Committee should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

6. The Committee should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

7. The work of the Committee should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

8. The work of the Committee should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

9. The Committee may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

10. The Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Trade and Development Board on its work. In accordance with paragraph 68 of the Cartagena Commitment the Board will conduct a review and evaluation of the work programme of the Committee midway between Conferences.

11. The frequency of sessions of the Committee is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To examine and review the experience of subregional, regional and interregional economic cooperation among developing countries aimed at analysing cases of integration and cooperation among developing countries with a view to recommending measures to strengthen and enlarge such cooperation, identifying new potentials for cooperation, including with other countries interested in such cooperation, and identifying new areas of complementarity for fostering economic cooperation among developing countries (ECDC).

2. To consider studies and proposals on economic cooperation and integration, on operational activities and policies in sectors such as trade, money, finance, investment, technology, environment, transport and communication, information, education and training. These activities should aim at strengthening cooperation, enhancing economic growth, increasing trade liberalization and transparency, promoting developing-country enterprises and facilitating the integration of developing countries into the world economy, in order to reduce impediments and disincentives that adversely affect the expansion of cooperation among developing countries and promote policies aimed at expansion of trade. The Committee in its work should take into account the special situation and particular difficulties of the least developed countries.

3. To identify the areas, including new ones, in which international organizations, and member States on a voluntary basis, through measures of support can facilitate specific economic cooperation programmes and projects and thereby complement the efforts of developing countries to strengthen South-South trade and economic relations.

4. To review studies and, if appropriate, make proposals on the establishment of, and support for, an interregional trade finance mechanism among developing countries.

5. Facilitate innovative ways of organizing ECDC cooperation on the basis of common interests of particular groups of countries in issues of specific interest to them.

6. The work of the Committee should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Committee should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the

exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

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13. The frequency of sessions of the Committee is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a Standing Committee on Developing Services Sectors: Fostering Competitive Services Sectors in Developing Countries is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To analyse and assist, as appropriate, in the formulation of national policies aimed at strengthening the production, export and technological capacity of services sectors taking into account their level of development in different countries, with a view to contributing to development and, thus, increasing the participation of developing countries in world trade in services. The Committee should focus on:

(a) Review of the development of services sectors in developing countries and comparative analysis of policies, including identification of domestic weaknesses and capabilities, aimed at creating the conditions necessary for the development of competitive service sectors and export of services;

(b) Policies aimed at developing and strengthening the institutional, technological, and physical infrastructure relating to services;

(c) Policies aimed at human resources development, the development of knowledge-intensive services, and producer services related to primary and manufacturing sectors and telecommunications;

(d) Improving the capacity of individual countries, in particular developing countries, to benefit from information related to services production, trade and technology;

(e) Identifying sector-specific policy options, with a view to developing competitive services sectors;

(f) Analysing issues relating to access to information networks and distribution channels for services.

2. The Committee should also focus on:

(a) Examining difficulties particularly faced by developing countries in enhancing exports of services thereby increasing their participation in world trade in services;

(b) The impact of progressive liberalization in the development of competitive service sectors;

(c) Policies aimed at enhancing cooperation with other countries, at regional, subregional, and interregional level, including mutual trade

liberalization, pooling capabilities to improve skills, distribution networks and infrastructure development;

(d) Promoting efficient marketing of export-competitive industries and domestic labour skills;

(e) Increasing knowledge of laws and regulations concerning the services sector with a view, inter alia, to adapting them to the requirements of increasing globalization of services, promoting transparency and mutual knowledge of the pertinent regulations;

(f) Collecting and disseminating statistics on trade in services in areas where such collection or dissemination is not being undertaken by other international organizations, and defining ways to improve such collection and dissemination.

3. (i) With reference to paragraph 72 of the Cartagena Commitment, the main tasks of the Committee in the field of shipping, ports, and multimodal transport should be as outlined above, and particularly focus on:

(a) Review of shipping policies so as to identify elements leading to the development of competitive shipping sectors, in order to enhance the participation of developing countries in world shipping;

(b) Consideration of conditions facilitating intraregional and interregional cooperation;

(c) Exchange of information on infrastructure development, including port infrastructure;

(d) Identification of human resources development needs, including on-the-job training;

(e) Exchange and dissemination of information on developments in the shipping sector;

(f) The efficient conduct of multimodal transport processes, bearing in mind economic, commercial and legal aspects;

(g) Review of technological developments that affect maritime transport;

(h) Considering various aspects of port management operations, with a view to increasing efficiency.

(ii) The Committee should take into account the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency on transport-related information systems.

4. To analyse prospects for developing and strengthening the insurance sector and enhancing the trade of developing countries in this sector.

5. The Committee, in implementing its functions, should pay due attention to the role of services in market-oriented development, including issues related to privatization and deregulation.

6. In implementing the above, the Committee shall take into account the work undertaken by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Restrictive Business Practices.

7. The Committee shall ensure that its work does not duplicate or overlap the activities of GATT.

8. The Committee will hold separate sessions on services in general, shipping and insurance respectively.

9. The work of the Committee should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Committee should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

10. In its work, the Committee should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

11. The Committee should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

12. The work of the Committee should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

13. The work of the Committee should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

14. The Committee may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

15. The Committee shall submit periodic reports to the Trade and Development Board on its work. In accordance with paragraph 68 of the Cartagena Commitment the Board will conduct a review and evaluation of the work programme of the Committee midway between Conferences.

16. The frequency of sessions of the Committee is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

C. Terms of reference of the Ad Hoc Working Groups

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows; Non-debt-creating Finance for Development; New Mechanisms for Increasing Investment and Financial Flows*

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an Ad Hoc Working Group on Investment and Financial Flows; Non-debt-creating Finance for Development; New Mechanisms for Increasing Investment and Financial Flows is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To examine issues, developments and policies in the fields of non-debt-creating finance for development and new mechanisms for increasing investment and financial flows for development.

2. To examine country experiences in attracting investment flows and non-debt-creating finance for development, in order to identify positive factors as well as major impediments to investment and financial flows. In that respect:

(a) To consider policies that would improve the climate for investment through fostering macroeconomic stability and structural reforms, adequate legal protection of investment, market liberalization, regulatory frameworks for foreign investment and direct incentives;

(b) To consider measures for attracting investment such as international investment protection arrangements, bilateral investment and double taxation treaties, as well as innovative incentives and promotional measures that could be adopted by developed countries and multilateral financial institutions;

(c) To review different approaches to promote investment-related financial flows including, inter alia, debt swap programmes, foreign portfolio investment and export processing zones;

(d) To identify policies and measures which could contribute to the return of flight capital;

(e) To examine the role and possible improvement of ODA in promoting/supporting domestic investment efforts.

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* In adopting the terms of reference for this Ad Hoc Working Group, the Board also adopted the understanding that the discussion on "further evolution of the international debt strategy" will be taken up by the Trade and Development Board in accordance with the Cartagena Commitment.

3. To explore new mechanisms aimed at increasing investment and financial flows involving equity and non-equity-based finance and other market-based instruments.

4. The work of the Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

5. In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

6. The Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

7. The work of the Working Group should complement that of other international bodies, particularly the Group of 24, the Development Committee and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

8. The work of the Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

9. The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

10. The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

11. The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an Ad Hoc Working Group on Trade Efficiency is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To examine how modern organization and technology can be used to foster greater participation in international trade, in particular by small and medium-sized enterprises, giving particular attention to countries and regions less advanced in the area of trade efficiency. In this context, it shall:

(a) Identify possibilities to reduce transactional costs in international trade, particularly through trade facilitation and simplification of trade procedures, thus contributing to the fluidity of international trade flows and developing new trade links between potential and actual trading partners in all regions of the world;

(b) Taking into consideration differences in national conditions, practices and legal aspects, develop domestic guidelines or models for trade efficiency including, inter alia, simplifying, rationalizing and grouping formalities, transactions and information sources, consistent with a country's commitments under relevant agreements of GATT, and other relevant international agreements. In this context, as appropriate, promote the development and establishment of Trade Points;

(c) Promote greater understanding and use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI), including the standards established through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Working Party 4 (UNECE WP4). The Working Group will consider instruments and guidelines for the use of EDI;

(d) Evaluate the impact of EDI-related developments and relevant technical and technological innovations on the trade efficiency of firms, and the potential participation of new players in the international trade.

2. To contribute to the utilization of market opportunities by fostering transparency in trade-related information flows, including by increasing international awareness of opportunities to access publicly available market information.

3. To identify areas in which technical cooperation could be necessary in trade efficiency-related areas, with special regard to trade facilitation activities and the establishment of Trade Points, and possibilities to create new trade links thereby; in this context, adequate attention should be devoted to infrastructural and human resources development, and the organization of dissemination of necessary data.

4. The Working Group shall prepare the 1994 international symposium on trade efficiency, as called for in paragraphs 157 and 158 of the Cartagena Commitment. For use at that time, the Working Group shall undertake research,

prepare publications, explanatory or educational materials, including those that emphasize legal or other focuses.

5. The work of the Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

6. In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

7. The Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

8. The work of the Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

9. The work of the Working Group should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs, notably regarding the work of the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT and of UNECE WP4.

10. The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

11. The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

12. The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an Ad Hoc Working Group on Comparative Experiences with Privatization is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To review the experiences of countries with privatization.

2. To consider medium- and long-term objectives of privatization processes taking into account relevant factors, including the diversity of country situations, in order to promote greater efficiency in economic activities, more effective allocation of resources and the dynamism and competitiveness through restructuring of enterprises and/or economic sectors; employment creation; social benefit distribution and economic development in general.

3. To consider factors pertinent to the design and implementation of privatization programmes, such as, inter alia, overall development of the private sector; the role of the State, in particular in determining the legal and regulatory framework for privatization, and the scale and pace of the process; criteria for selecting enterprises to be privatized; the relationship between privatization and domestic financial markets; foreign investment; infrastructure; administrative capacity; patterns of ownership and control; corporate performance and competition; employee motivation; public awareness and support; mechanisms for employment creation and, in general, relationships with social development programmes.

4. To elaborate, as possible guidelines for policy makers, basic elements for consideration in formulating privatization programmes and plans.

5. To serve as a forum for the presentation of national programmes and plans for privatization as well as for the exchange and dissemination of relevent information. In that connection the Ad Hoc Working Group should seek from interested countries the presentation of information on their national experiences and draw on the experience and expertise of non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions and the academic community.

6. The work of the Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

7. In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

8. The Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

9. The work of the Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

10. The work of the Working Group should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

11. The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

12. The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

13. The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an Ad Hoc Working Group on Expansion of Trading Opportunities for Developing Countries is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To analyse prospects for, and examine ways of, expanding the trade opportunities of developing countries for the diversification and growth of their export supply capability and for the enlargement and improvement of their export market opportunities. In that context to:

(a) Consider various national experiences in order to identify national measures, incentives and policies for enhancing the competitiveness of sectors and industries with an export potential;

(b) Examine ways to increase export-oriented investment in developing countries by domestic and foreign firms;

(c) Research and compare national experiences of the impact of import liberalization on general economic development and exports;

(d) Identify trade expansion opportunities for developing countries arising from liberalization of trade measures hindering the access of developing countries' exports to markets;

(e) Consider the role of trade promotion and marketing as well as the possible impact of improving trade-related information technology and flows on the trade of developing countries.

2. In carrying out the work as foreseen in paragraph 1 above, the Working Group will analyse and identify product and export market opportunities which are a consequence of developments such as: structural adjustment policies in various countries; trade measures, including liberalization measures such as those adopted to implement the results of the Uruguay Round; and measures and arrangements to promote regional integration. The Working Group will include the results of this analysis of such product and export market opportunities in its report to the Trade and Development Board.

3. The work of the Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of

policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

4. In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

5. The Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

6. The work of the Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

7. The work of the Working Group should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

8. The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

9. The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

10. The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), as amended, and to A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment adopted at the eighth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, an Ad Hoc Working Group on Interrelationship between Investment and Technology Transfer is established by the Trade and Development Board with the following terms of reference:

1. To examine, using case-studies, the interrelationship between investment flows, particularly to developing countries, including least developed countries, and the transfer, absorption and generation of technology and related policy measures.

2. (a) To identify the main factors conducive to technology transfer through foreign investment that will facilitate technology flows and increase technological absorptive capacities;

(b) To analyse the role of intellectual property protection in international investment and technology flows and in the development of endogenous technological capabilities.

3. To examine, through case-studies, the role played by private firms, Governments and international organizations in the transfer of technology, related improvement of entrepreneurial capabilities, and in the creation and dissemination of technology, including investment in R & D and training.

4. To consider the impact of technological change, including new and emerging technologies, on investment decisions and production patterns, trade competitiveness and national capacities for innovation and adaptation. To consider also the role of foreign investment in technology transfer and technology development, including organizational technology.

5. To examine and encourage new initiatives and exchange of experiences on investment and technology policies that are conducive to overcoming constraints and facilitating technology transfer through investment, and the generation, transfer and diffusion of technology, including environmentally sound technologies which have an impact on competitiveness and development.

6. The work of the Working Group should follow a progressive sequence in accordance with paragraphs 49 to 60 of the Cartagena Commitment. In line with what is set out in the Cartagena Commitment, particularly paragraphs 18 and 47, the Working Group should be inspired by the need to promote international consensus on principles and strategies for policy action at the national and international levels to enhance the development prospects of member States, particularly those of developing countries. It should provide a forum for the exchange of experiences among member States so as to enable them to draw appropriate lessons for the formulation and implementation of policies at the national and international levels and for international economic cooperation.

7. In its work, the Working Group should take due account of the diversity of country situations and experiences. It may base its work on country reviews by the secretariat and seek from relevant countries the presentation of studies on their national experiences. It could also, depending on the issue, seek the participation of, and draw on the experience and expertise of, non-governmental actors, particularly enterprises, trade unions, the academic community and non-governmental organizations as well as representatives of international institutions.

8. The Working Group should identify for consideration areas in which technical cooperation should be strengthened.

9. The work of the Working Group should be coordinated with that of other Committees and Working Groups.

10. The work of the Working Group should complement that of other international bodies while seeking to ensure that no duplication occurs.

11. The Working Group may recommend for the consideration of the Board the establishment of expert groups.

12. The Working Group shall complete its work within two years of the adoption of its terms of reference. It may submit interim reports and shall submit a final report on the results of its work to the Trade and Development Board.

13. The frequency of sessions of the Working Group is to be decided by the Board in accordance with the existing procedures concerning the calendar of meetings. The duration of the sessions should be of five days or less.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD RELATED TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF STANDING COMMITTEES/AD HOC WORKING GROUPS

The Standing Committees and the Ad Hoc Working Groups, in their work, will take into account, as appropriate, the results of the review and follow-up by the Trade and Development Board of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

D. Decision submitted by the Chairman of the Working Group of the Whole

The Trade and Development Board,

Considering the importance of making available for socially productive use the funds released by the reduction of military expenditures,

Decides to consider at the earliest opportunity the establishment of an ad hoc working group to explore questions related to the issue of structural adjustment for the transition to disarmament and the implications for economic growth and development of reductions of military expenditures, taking into account the specific and individual situation of countries, in line with paragraphs 24, 98 and 99 of the Cartagena Commitment.

III. STATEMENTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH DECISION 398 (XXXVIII) ADOPTED BY THE BOARD

39. The representative of United Republic of Tanzania stated that his delegation wished to enter a reservation on paragraph 1 of the text on "The Trade and Development Board in executive session" (see sect. II above, decision 398 (XXXVIII), annex), in particular in relation to the phrase "strengthening of the policy function of the Board in adapting the organization's work to changing worldwide economic circumstances". Since it was here a matter of executive sessions, he considered that the Board could not be placed in the position of having to react all the time to changing circumstances, trying to clutch at whatever straws might be in the wind, without any clarity about the objectives to be pursued. UNCTAD and its organs, including the Board, were specifically intended to pursue the twin objectives of trade and development. The omission of this central purpose in the operative part of the text could make the term "strengthening" out of place, since there might even be a weakening of the policy function. His delegation had therefore tried unsuccessfully to have paragraph 1 amended to read as follows:

> "1. The executive sessions of the Board will facilitate the strengthening of the policy functions of the Trade and Development Board by organizing its work to meet the needs of trade and development keeping in view changing worldwide circumstances, and accordingly reviewing work programmes and priorities, promoting greater efficiency and reacting to reports from its subsidiary bodies in order to give impetus to ongoing work."

He felt that the text as it now stood exposed the Board indefinitely - perhaps for the next 10 or 20 years - to the need to react all the time to changing world-wide circumstances, without keeping in the forefront the central purpose of meeting the needs of trade and development. This was why the Tanzanian delegation wished to enter a reservation on this paragraph.

40. The representative of Chile observed that the progress made in adopting the terms of reference for the Standing Committees and the Ad Hoc Working Groups represented a step towards achieving the implementation of concrete policies that were in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Cartagena Commitment, especially paragraphs 64 and 71, among others. But the implementation of such policies would not be achieved by preparing documents - however worthy and interesting in terms of new ideas - if they were not put into practice. In the view of his delegation, the next major step was to secure the participation in these Committees and Working Groups of people who held real responsibility and decision-making powers for implementing these policies in their own countries. What might prevent such people from participating in the Committees and Working Groups? The main reason was no doubt the urgency of the work in their own countries, and hence lack of time to travel to meetings in Geneva. This implied an enormous challenge for the members of the Board: namely, how to portray to national senior officials and experts the work of these new Committees as being even more compelling than the immediate urgencies in their home countries. His delegation believed that the main way to do this would be to ask those senior officials themselves in which areas and issues they would wish to hear of the experiences of other

countries that had been successful in applying policies which they too were interested in applying. Which people in those other countries would they like to meet and get to know in the UNCTAD meetings for the very reason that they were people who had been successful in carrying out worthwhile structural reforms from which they too could learn something? Which countries had been successful in poverty alleviation, and which specific policies and people had achieved this? Which countries had managed to increase their exports or to attract additional financing? Such issues could be the subject of a fruitful exchange of ideas.

41. His delegation considered that inquiring into the issues that were of priority interest to national policy decision makers was the fundamental task of the UNCTAD secretariat in the next stage of the work relating to the Committees and Working Groups. The people who had a responsible leadership role at the national level in relation to the issues which the Conference and the Board had identified should be asked who they would like to hear presenting their experience. Having expressed a wish of this kind, they would be expected to commit themselves to attending the meeting in question, since participants from other countries and regions would be informed of the interest expressed in the presentation of their experience. The process of inquiry which he was proposing was aimed at securing the participation of the most senior people in the future work of the UNCTAD Committees and Working Groups.

Notes

1/ For the list of participants, see TD/B/INF/188.

ANNEX I

Agenda for the second part of the thirty-eighth session of the Trade and Development Board

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work of the session;

   (b) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (c) Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board;

   (d) Designation of the President of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board.

2. Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its eighth session: Establishment of the terms of reference of the new standing committees and ad hoc working groups.

3. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

   (a) New States members of UNCTAD;

   (b) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

   (c) Review of the calendar of meetings;

   (d) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.

4. Other business.

5. Adoption of the report of the Board.

ANNEX II

Provisional agenda for the first part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board*

1. Procedural matters:

   (a) Election of officers;

   (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of the work of the session;

   (c) Adoption of the report on credentials;

   (d) Provisional agenda for the second part of the thirty-ninth regular session of the Board.

2. Follow-up to the recommendations adopted by the Conference at its eighth session.

3. International implications of macroeconomic policies and issues concerning interdependence: the recent evolution of development problems and prospects.

4. Paths to development: performance, problems and reform of public enterprises.

5. Sustainable development including UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of UNCED's conclusions and recommendations.

6. Trade policies, structural adjustment and economic reform: issues relating to national transparent mechanisms in the context of the fight against protectionism.

7. Review of progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s.

8. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s.

9. Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people in the light of the Cartagena decision.

10. Other matters in the field of trade and development:

   (a) Export promotion: report of the Joint Advisory Group on the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/GATT on its twenty-fifth session;

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* For the statements made in connection with the approval of the provisional agenda, see above, sect. I of the report, paras. 20-25.

(b) Progressive development of the law of international trade: twenty-fifth annual report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law.

(To be completed in the light of developments)

11. Other matters requiring action by the Board arising from or related to reports and activities of its subsidiary and other bodies:

- Report of the Special Committee on Preferences on its nineteenth session.

(To be completed in the light of developments)

12. Institutional, organizational, administrative and related matters:

(a) Treatment of new States members of UNCTAD for purposes of elections;

(b) Membership of the Trade and Development Board;

(c) Membership of the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget for 1993;

(d) Designation of intergovernmental bodies for the purposes of rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

(e) Designation and classification of non-governmental organizations for the purposes of rule 77 of the rules of procedure of the Board;

(f) Review of the calendar of meetings;

(g) Administrative and financial implications of the actions of the Board.

13. Other business.

14. Adoption of the report of the Board.